

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, UK

SUBJECT: VISIT OF CHAIRMAN OF FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

MR. KARL BAKKE

REF: DEPT 146335; DEPT 179079; DEPT 179385

1. CHAIRMAN BAKKE AND MR. BAYER MET MORNING JULY 29 WITH LANCHIN AND BONNARD OF SHIPPING POLICY OFFICE OF DEPT. OF TRADE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF LANCHIN'S STAFF. EMBOFF ACCOMPANIED VISITORS. MR. BAKKE EXPLAINED IN DETAIL UNDERSTANDING WORKED OUT WITH USSR ON MEMORANDUM AGREEMENT ON PARTICIPATION IN US OCEAN CARGO TRADES (REFTEL). FROM DOT POINT OF VIEW, IT WAS CLEAR THAT US INITIATIVE IS A WELCOME STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

2. AFTER MORNING MEETINGS, BAKKE, BAYER AND EMBOFF ATTENDED LUNCH HOSTED BY PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE DEPT. OF TRADE STANLEY CLINTON-DAVIS, MP. LORD INCHCAPE CHAIRMAN OF GENERAL COUNCIL OF BRITISH SHIPPING (CGBS), BRUCE FARTHING, SECRETARY GENERAL OF CENSA (COMMITTEE OF EUROPEAN AND JAPANESE NATIONAL STEAMSHIP OWNERS ASSOCIATIONS), LABOR UNION LEADERS AND OTHERS FROM CGBS AND PARLIAMENT. DURING LUNCH, CHAIRMAN BAKKE AGAIN EXPLAINED UNDERSTANDING REACHED WITH USSR.

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LORD INCHCAPE STATED ON BEHALF OF CGBS MEMBERS THEIR

APPRECIATION AND SUPPORT FOR INITIATIVE TAKEN BY US TOWARD SOLUTION OF SOVIET PROBLEM. AT END OF LUNCH, CLINTON-DAVIS MADE STATEMENT OF UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT ON PART OF UK GOVERNMENT FOR US/USSR UNDERSTANDING, UNDERLINING UK VIEW THAT BEST WAY TO WORK OUT PROBLEM OF SOVIET RATE CUTTING IS TO GET THEM INTO CONFERENCES. UK LABOR UNION REPRESENTATIVES ALSO SUPPORTED THIS VIEW.

3. COMMENT: WHILE BRITISH, PARTICULARLY IN DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH LANCHIN, HAD SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT US/USSR UNDERSTANDING, UK SHIPOWNERS, UNION REPRESENTATIVES AND GOVERNMENT CLEARLY WELCOMED THIS STEP, WHICH CLINTON-DAVIS CHARACTERIZED AS "MILES AHEAD" OF ANYTHING UK OR OTHER EUROPEANS HAD BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE EITHER UNILATERALLY OR JOINTLY.

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